



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 6, 2011

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest
Attn: Mrs. Amy Burt-GOA EIS Project Manager
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
Silverdale, Washington 98315-1101

Re: EPA Comments on the Department of the Navy Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities
Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement,
EPA Project #08-028-DOD.

Dear Ms. Burt:

EPA has reviewed the above-referenced document (CEQ No. 20110074) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Upon review of the Navy's responses to our comments on the draft EIS, it appears that many of our recommendations were incorporated into the final EIS. We particularly appreciate the additional information provided on the SINKEX Letter of Agreement, the MPRSA general permit, and the PM2.5 designation for the Fairbanks area.

We do, however, continue to have concerns identified in our previous letter related to the potential impacts from the proposed activities. We are disappointed that the Navy did not incorporate timing exclusions to minimize impacts to marine mammals or choose to select the less impacting action alternative (Alternative 1) as its preferred alternative. In an attempt to address these concerns, we encourage the implementation of an extensive monitoring and mitigation program, incorporating the measures currently identified in the final EIS, to be developed in conjunction with NMFS and EPA.

We also believe that it is critical that the adaptive management strategies identified in the EIS and 5-year reevaluation identified in the Navy's response to our comment, be fully and meaningfully implemented. We appreciate that additional mitigation measures recommended by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (such as avoidance of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, or HAPCs) have been incorporated into the document, and that the Navy agreed to implement other yet to be identified mitigation, also in consultation with NMFS.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on this final EIS. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 206-553-1601, or contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff at (907) 271-6324, or by email at curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "R".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

